

## DEAD BIRD BARREL AI SURVEILLANCE TESTING

Dead Bird Surveillance from flocks every week, Antigen Test on Tracheal Swabs

1. *Routine Sampling:* Once per week each farm should submit birds from their daily mortality at a level of 10 birds per house. For multiple house farms, all houses must be represented. If the mortality for a particular day does not meet the 10 bird per house minimum, dead birds from prior days can be used as a supplement. Such supplementary birds can be preserved by removing the head and neck of dead birds and freezing them until the appropriate sampling date. The neck must be severed as close to the body as possible so that there is ample trachea from which to sample. The head and neck samples should be removed from the freezer to thaw 3-4 hours prior to the surveillance crew visit.
2. *Follow-up on non-tested premises:* Names of premises that have not provided a minimum of 10 birds per house in a week should be provided to the companies. The companies must then obtain swab samples from these farms (10 birds per house) by Saturday of that week. **This follow-up sampling must be in addition to the normal dead bird surveillance which will continue as scheduled.**
3. *Alternative Protocol:* For any flock, in lieu of the dead bird pickup surveillance (#1), the company may collect 10 swabs per house per week. These swabs must be from a combination of any dead birds available that day plus enough live birds to reach the target of 10 birds/house. These samples must be kept cool and submitted to the lab by the company ASAP. The company must provide to the State Veterinarian the names and the weekly sampling day of the flocks for which they are utilizing this alternative surveillance protocol. If the alternative protocol is not utilized, the dead bird surveillance protocol that is listed above will be required.
4. Samples for both items #2 and #3 must be collected by company representatives.